

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /130 W

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R 051234Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5569

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG UR US

SUBJECT: GROMYKO RECEPTION

1. IN EFFORT TO MAXIMIZE HIS EXPOSURE TO EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL-
DOM AND GENERATE LOCAL PUBLICITY, GROMYKO (AND HIS WIFE)
HOSTED LARGE RECEPTION AT SOVIET RESIDENCE LAST EVENING.
SOME 400 SENIOR EGYPTIANS, CHIEFS OF MISSION, JOURNALISTS,
AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF SOVIET DELEGATION WHICH ACCOMPANIED
GROMYKO, WERE PRESENT. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS SOVIET
RECEPTIONS GIVEN BY VINOGRADOV IN RECENT YEARS, THERE WAS
GOOD EGYPTIAN CABINET TURNOUT. AMONG PRINCIPAL GUESTS
WERE VICE PRESIDENTS SHAFEI AND FAWZI, DEPUTY PRIMINS
HATEM AND HEGAZY, FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY AND ABOUT SEVEN
OR EIGHT OTHER EGYPTIAN CABINET MEMBERS. CONSPICUOUS BY
THEIR ABSENCE WERE MINISTER OF WAR AND SENIOR EGYPTIAN
MILITARY.

2. STAR OF THE SHOW, WHO OUTSHOWN GROMYKO, WAS YASSER
ARAFAT. GROMYKO PAID GREAT ATTENTION TO HIM AND OTHER
SOVIET AND EGYPTIAN GUESTS ALIKE GAVE HIM EFFUSIVE
WELCOME. THROUGHOUT EVENING, PHOTOGRAPHERS TOOK PICTURES
OF ARAFAT BUSSING AND BEING EMBRACED BY SENIOR EGYPTIANS OR FLANKED
BY THEM AND SOVIET OFFICIALS.

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3. WHEN GREETING ME, GROMYKO MUTTERED TWO THINGS: HE
HAD JUST BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES AND THIS WAS THE FIRST

TIME HE HAD HOSTED A RECEPTION IN EGYPT. LATER IN THE EVENING, WHEN I SHOOK HANDS WITH FAHMY, THE LATTER INSISTED UPON AGAIN INTRODUCING ME TO GROMYKO. GROMYKO OBVIOUSLY HAD NO DESIRE TO BE SEEN SPENDING ANY TIME WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. HE CURTLY TOLD FAHMY THAT HE HAD MET ME, REPEATED HISREMARK ABOUT JUST HAVING BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES, AND TURNED AWAY FROM BOTH OF US.

4. THROUGHOUT THE EVENING, GROMYKO LOOKED DOUR AND VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES COMMENTED THAT HIS TALKS WITH THE EGYPTIANS MUST NOT HAVE GONE WELL. FROM A PUBLICITY STANDPOINT, HOWEVER, GROMYKO RECEPTION ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE.

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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